

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus, comprising:

a node having a scheduling cycle, said scheduling cycle partitioned into amounts of data such that one of said partitioned amounts of data serviced per said scheduling cycle corresponds to a data rate that corresponds to a highest speed grade managed by said node.

2. A method, comprising:

scheduling service provided by a node with partitions of data, said partitions of data being coextensive with a highest speed grade managed by a node where one partition of data per scheduling cycle corresponds to a data rate that is equal to that of a highest speed grade managed by said node for said service.

3. An apparatus, comprising:

a node having a scheduling cycle, said scheduling cycle partitioned into amounts of data that are coextensive with a highest speed grade managed by said node where one of said partitioned amounts of data per scheduling cycle corresponds to a data rate that is equal to said highest speed grade managed by said node, said node having a memory that maintains a data entry for each user managed by said node, said memory having a circular link list

user managed by said node, said memory having a circular link list for each speed grade managed by said node where each of said circular link lists circularly links those of said users who receive service at the same speed grade.

4. A method, comprising:

reading a first data entry from a memory that maintains a data entry for each user managed by a node, said memory having a circular link list for each speed grade managed by said node where each of said circular link lists circularly links those of said data entries for those of said users who receive service at the same speed grade, said first data entry having a first data element that points to a next data entry within said first data entry's circular link list.

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